

**George Washington to William Heath, October 17, 1778,  
The Writings of George Washington from the Original  
Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick,  
Editor.**

**To MAJOR GENERAL WILLIAM HEATH**

October 17, 1778.

Dear Sir: Captains Gawen Brown and John Langdon and Lieut. William Davis of Colo. Henry Jacksons Regiment<sup>1</sup> have requested to resign their Commissions and have lodged Certificates, that they are not indebted to the public. You will be pleased to call for their Commissions and to give discharges upon them. And as there are frequent applications by the Officers, employed at the Eastward, of the same nature, and considerable time is spent in writing to and from Head Quarters upon the subject, you will upon future occasions, give discharges yourself *upon the Commissions* and transmit me an account of the same from time to time that they may be properly registered and forwarded to the Board of War.

The Enemy, who were in Jersey, for several days past, have returned to New York again, and by advices received Yesterday, I believe it is certain, that a considerable detachment, consisting of Ten full Regiments at least, is embarking. Their destination is not certainly known; but the current reports of Deserters and other intelligence from York say they are going to the West Indies. There are some accounts too, which say that Charles Town is their Object. However, as it is possible that they may meditate a stroke against Boston, notwithstanding all reasoning seems against it, I mean to put a Detachment from the Army

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in motion, which will advance Eastward, as far as Connecticut River, till we are ascertained of their views. I am, etc.

P.S. The Inclosed Letter for the Marquiss Devieune you will be pleased to deliver him as soon as you can. The Officers of Jacksons Regiment mentioned above, are probably at Boston.<sup>2</sup>

[MS.H.S.]

<sup>1</sup>acksons Additional Continental regiment.

<sup>2</sup>n the writing of Robert Hanson Harrison.